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Financing of the United Nations Peacekeeping Forces in the Middle East: United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

Addendum

1. The United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) was established for an initial period of six months by the Security Council in its resolution 425 (1978) of 19 March 1978 for operations in southern Lebanon. The mandate has subsequently been extended by the Security Council in its various resolutions, the latest of which was resolution 1151 (1998) of 30 January 1998, which extended the mandate of UNIFIL to 31 July 1998.

2. Resources made available to UNIFIL from its inception to 30 June 1998 amount to $2,882.0 million gross, and estimated expenditures amount to $2,865.3 million gross for the same period. Credits returned to Member States amount to $16.1 million (A/52/806, para. 11). The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions informed that, from the period of inception to 28 February 1998, $2,818.9 million had been assessed on Member States in respect of UNIFIL. As at 28 February 1998, contributions received totalled $2,648.9 million, leaving a balance of outstanding assessments of $170.0 million, and cash balances amounted to $77.3 million.

3. As in the case with the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF), the Advisory Committee was informed that full reimbursement for troop costs had been made to troop-contributing Governments to 31 May 1997. It is estimated that $40.4 million is due for troop costs for the period ending 31 January 1998 (see A/52/806, para. 16). As of the drafting of the present report, the Committee was informed that a further payment would be made in late March 1998 for the period from 1 June to 31 August 1997.

Financial performance for the period from 1 July 1996 to 30 June 1997

4. The report of the Secretary-General on the financing of UNIFIL for the period from 1 July 1996 to 30 June 1997 (A/52/804) shows that expenditures amounted to $126,744,400 gross ($123,504,400 net) against resources provided of $125,722,800 gross ($122,665,800 net), resulting in additional requirements of $1,021,600 gross ($838,600 net) (ibid., annex I). In the report, the Secretary-General proposed that, at its resumed fifty-second session, the General Assembly appropriate and assess the additional amount of $382,244 gross ($199,244 net) for the period from 1 July 1996 to 30 June 1997 (ibid., para. 12). The Advisory Committee recommends against this additional appropriation (see para. 14 below). The additional requirement of $639,356, which relates to the incident at Qana, will be treated in accordance with the terms of Assembly resolution 51/233 of 13 June 1997.

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5. In the same report, it is indicated that during the reporting period expenditures were higher than the estimates under civilian personnel costs, premises/accommodation, transport operations, air operations, communications and other equipment and for the prorated share of UNIFIL for the cost of maintaining the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi. These over-expenditures were partially offset by unutilized balances under military contingents, supplies and services, air and surface freight and staff assessment.

6. The Advisory Committee was informed that unliquidated obligations for the period from 1 July 1996 to 30 June 1997 had decreased from $61,950,300 (see A/52/804, annex I, column 6) to $13,692,590 as at 31 January 1998. Expenditures during the reporting period also included a total of $2,995,200 in respect of expenditures ending 30 June 1996 (A/52/804, table 1). As in the case of UNDOF, the Committee requested information regarding the period covered by those obligations. The Committee's comments on UNDOF, as indicated in paragraph 7 of its report A/52/860/Add.5, are equally applicable to the case of UNIFIL accounts. The Committee points out that the explanations regarding administrative delays are not satisfactory and the nature of the delays has not been explained. Consequently, the Committee is of the opinion that there is no need to authorize an additional appropriation and assessment of $382,244 gross ($199,244 net) for the period from 1 July 1996 to 30 June 1997.

7. With regard to the financing of the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, the Advisory Committee notes from the performance report (A/52/804, para. 5, and annex II.B, paras. 7 and 24) that the share of the cost of the logistics base charged to UNIFIL during the reporting period, amounting to $436,300 under line 17, was funded from amounts provided under line 1 for emplacement, rotation and repatriation of troops ($290,900) and line 5 for purchase of vehicles ($145,400). The Committee sought clarification, as in the case of UNDOF, as to whether or not there was a double count of the share of the cost of the logistic base charged to UNIFIL. The Committee was informed that the share charged to UNIFIL, shown as $436,300 in annex I to the performance report, appears only under line 17, while the expenditures shown under lines 1 and 5 exclude the shares for the logistics base; the revised apportionments for lines 1 and 5 were inadvertently not reflected in annex I. The Committee requests that, in the future, the corresponding revised apportionments be shown in annex I.

8. Under civilian personnel costs, over-expenditures for local staff salaries and general temporary assistance amounted to $1,163,700 and $1,298,000 respectively. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraphs 13 and 15 of annex II.B to the report that the increase in requirements for local staff salaries was attributable to a 61.8 per cent increase in those salaries effective 1 March 1997 and the payment of a non-pensionable bonus equivalent to 5.56 months' salary, based on the previous salary scale applicable to Naqoura, Lebanon.

9. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that no local salary survey had been undertaken since 1992. The local salary survey leading to an increase of 61.8 per cent in salaries was carried out by the United Nations Development Programme in August 1996. As no comparator could be found in the area of operation, the Committee was informed that Beirut was used as the basis for collecting data but that all local mission staff were recruited from the area of operation and virtually none from Beirut. The Committee is aware that in some missions local salary surveys are carried out every year, while in others it is done less frequently. The Committee is concerned that the application of the current survey methodology is leading to inflated salaries in some locations as compared to what is paid in the local labour market. The Committee requests that the Secretariat review the application of the methodology and procedures used in the surveys so that such anomalies can be avoided; in particular, the review should address the issue of the criteria to be used in determining the location in which survey data are collected if there is no comparator in a given location.

10. With regard to the 5.56-month bonus for temporary and non-temporary staff (see A/52/804, annex II.B, tables 2 and 3), the Advisory Committee did not receive a satisfactory explanation as to the basis for treating temporary and non-temporary staff the same by paying temporary staff back pay, nor was the Committee informed as to what the contracts of the temporary staff specified.

11. In the performance report (A/52/804, annex II.B, para. 7), an unutilized balance of $2,075,00 is reported under emplacement, rotation and repatriation of troops, after deducting $290,900 for the financing of the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi (see para. 7 above). The Advisory Committee welcomes those savings, which are mainly attributable to more favourable rates obtained for the charter of commercial and government aircraft. The Committee notes that the budgeted amount of $7,577,000 was based on standard cost ratios for the emplacement and repatriation of troops. The Committee requests that, in the future, efforts be made to use the performance experience to estimate future costs in this and other lines of the budget.

12. With respect to vehicle insurance, it is indicated in the performance report (ibid., para. 28) that the additional requirement of $344,200 was due to an unexpected increase in worldwide third-party liability coverage of vehicles ($174,700) and to expenditures from the prior financial period ending 30 June 1996 ($169,500). The Advisory Committee notes, however, that in the case of UNDOF, the resources provided for the same reporting period were sufficient (A/52/771, annex II.B, para. 28). The Committee recalls that for the reporting period from 1 December to 30 June 1996, it was informed of measures taken to control the sharp increases in UNIFIL vehicle insurance premiums (A/51/684/Add.1, para. 28). The Committee requests that the Secretariat report on the status of actions taken to control the situation.

13. In the performance report (A/52/804, annex II.B, para. 29), it is mentioned that the additional amount of $171,400 was required for the transfer of funds to the reserve account for the third-party liability insurance of helicopters. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that UNIFIL was the only mission that had established that sort of self-insurance reserve fund. The reserve fund, which was established some 12 years ago, had reached a level of some $3 million. The Committee understands that up to the present time no payments have been effected from the reserve fund. The Committee believes that there is no need for the fund. It therefore recommends that the reserve fund be eliminated and the unencumbered balance be returned to Member States.

14. Taking into account its observations in the paragraphs above, particularly paragraph 13, the Advisory Committee recommends against the additional appropriation of $382,244 gross ($199,244 net) (see para. 4 above).

Proposed budget for the period from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999

15. The proposed budget of UNIFIL for the period from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999 amounts to $136,719,500 gross ($132,706,000 net). In paragraph 22 below, the Advisory Committee recommends an appropriation of $135,831,900 gross ($131,980,500 net). The budget provides for the maintenance of the Force at its authorized strength of 4,513 troops (3,518 infantry and 995 logistics personnel), supported by a civilian establishment of 528 posts (146 international and 382 local) (A/52/806, para. 18). The Committee was informed that some 69 per cent of the budgeted amount is based on standard ratios and costs contained in the Standard Ratios and Standard Cost Manual, while 31 per cent cover mission-specific requirements. In the future, the Committee requests that such information be included in the budget document, as is the case for other missions.

16. The budget reflects an increase of $14,553,000 gross ($14,675,000 net), or an 11.9 per cent increase on a gross basis (12.4 per cent on a net basis) over the resources approved for the period from 1 July 1997 to 30 June 1998, excluding the provision for the support account for peacekeeping operations ($4,708,300) (see A/52/806, annex I). The increased requirements relate mainly to the upward revision in local staff salaries by 61.8 per cent, effective 1 March 1997 (see para. 9 above) and the proposed establishment of 52 additional posts (1 P-5, 2 P-3 and 49 local posts), as well as the replacement of vehicles and communications and other equipment (A/52/806, paras. 19-21 and annex I).

17. The estimates for international and local posts amount to $26,782,000 for the proposed staffing requirements of 528 posts (146 international and 382 local). The Advisory Committee notes from the budget report (A/52/806, annex II.C, para. 14) that 11 posts reported to the Committee as vacant during its review of the UNIFIL budget estimates for the period from 1 July 1997 to 30 June 1998 (see A/51/684/Add.1, paras. 46 and 47) were actually encumbered by 87 individual contractors under special service agreements. The proposed budget includes these additional 11 local posts in support of core functions of the mission as well as the establishment of 38 additional local posts for service personnel, for a total of 49 posts, the functions of which are shown in annex V to the budget report. The Committee was also provided with additional justifications for those posts.

18. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that in fact all 49 local posts being requested were for personnel already on board who had been hired under special service agreements. The Committee points out that this situation shows that improper procedures are being followed. From the information provided, the Committee is not convinced that a case has been made to convert all these personnel to local posts. The Committee was informed that if 38 additional service personnel are hired as regular local staff, their estimated cost (salaries plus common staff costs) would be $1,320,800; however, if they are hired as contractual personnel, based on an average monthly salary of $950 per person, the total cost would be $433,200. The Committee recommends that of the 49 local posts being requested, 11 posts providing core support functions be established as regular local posts and 38 additional service personnel continue as short-term contractual personnel, with

a consequential reduction of $887,600 in the proposed appropriation (see para. 22 below).

19. The Advisory Committee further notes, from paragraph 25 of the budget report, that in UNIFIL, as well as in a number of other missions, no changes are proposed in the number of internationally recruited General Service staff. It is indicated that for operational reasons, the current number of authorized internationally recruited General Service posts must be maintained. The Committee requests that, in the future, these operational reasons be clearly spelled out in the document.

20. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 9 of the budget report and section II of the report of the Secretary-General to the Security Council on UNIFIL (S/1998/53) that some of the increases in the budget result from changes in the political situation in the area of operation of the mission. In order to perform its tasks more effectively, UNIFIL is now conducting more mobile patrols and setting up temporary checkpoints and observation posts. This accounts for the type of military vehicle requested in the estimate. For example, armoured personnel vehicles are proposed to be increased from 78 to 105 (A/52/806, annex II.A). Moreover, as indicated in the budget report (ibid., annex II.C, para. 57), the increase in requirements under uniform items, flags and decals from $372,000 in the prior period to $569,500 in the proposed budget includes safety measures and upgrades in body armour for military and civilian personnel.

21. As further indicated in the budget report, provisions for spare parts, repairs and maintenance are estimated at $4,918,900 based on actual expenditures incurred during the 1996-1997 financial period (ibid., annex I and annex II.C, para. 28). The Advisory Committee notes that based on the standard maintenance cost of $500 per vehicle per month, $6,498,000 would have been required for 1,083 vehicles. Similarly, the Committee was informed that the provision for emplacement, rotation and repatriation of troops ($5,400,000) takes into account the actual expenditures incurred during the 1996-1997 financial period, particularly the rates previously obtained for the charter of aircraft (see para. 11 above). The Committee welcomes this approach but notes that the procedure is not followed for all budget items.

22. In paragraph 27 of the budget document, the Secretary-General proposes that the General Assembly appropriate $136,719,500 gross ($132,706,000 net) for the period from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999, to be assessed at the monthly rate of $11,393,292 gross ($11,058,833 net). Taking into account the observations in paragraph 18 above, the Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly approve the appropriation and assessment of the amount of $135,831,900 gross ($131,980,500 net) for the operations of UNIFIL for the 12-month period beginning 1 July 1998, subject to the extension of the mandate of the Force by the Security Council.

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Financing of the activities arising from Security Council resolution 687 (1991): United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

Addendum

1. The United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM) was established by the Security Council in accordance with its resolution 687 (1991) of 3 April 1991. In its resolution 689 (1991) of 9 April 1991, the Council decided to review the question of the termination or continuation of UNIKOM as well as its modalities of operation every six months. The most recent review by the Security Council was in October 1997, at which time it decided to review the question once again by 4 April 1998 (S/1997/773).

2. As indicated in paragraph 12 of the report of the Secretary-General containing the proposed budget of the Mission (A/52/824), the total resources made available to the Mission from its inception on 9 April 1991 to 30 June 1998 amount to $461,326,945 gross (including voluntary contributions in cash of $177,392,467 and a voluntary contribution in kind of $1,820,545 provided by the Government of Kuwait). The total estimated expenditure for the same period amounts to $404,418,678 gross.

3. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 13 of the report that $227,812,743 had been assessed on Member States from the inception of the Mission to 30 April 1998, and that contributions received for the same period amounted to $212,364,124, leaving outstanding assessments of $15,448,619 as at 31 January 1998. The Committee was informed that the cash balance totalled $50.4 million as at 11 March 1998.

4. With regard to reimbursement of troop-contributing countries for troop costs, the Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 16 of the report that full reimbursement in accordance with the standard rates of reimbursement has been made for the period ending 31 May 1997. The Committee was informed that $4.3 million had been paid up to 31 December 1996 in respect of contingent-owned equipment, and $2.3 million is estimated to be owed as at 31 January 1998.

5. In connection with death and disability, the Advisory Committee was informed that $837,000 had been paid in respect of two claims for the period from inception to 31 March 1998 and that two other claims had yet to be settled.

Overpayment of mission subsistence allowance

6. The Advisory Committee recalled that in paragraph 9 of its report (A/51/683/Add.1), it had indicated that based on information provided by the Secretariat, the total amount

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to be recovered was estimated at $988,443.50, consisting of $647,041.50 from 143 staff members payrolled at Headquarters, $72,067.50 from 19 staff separated from the Organization, $148,154.50 from 34 staff serving at offices away from Headquarters and $121,180 from military observers.

7. In its resolution 51/234 of 13 June 1997, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to recover the overpayment of mission subsistence allowance and to report to it at its fifty-second session on the results of action taken for its recovery, including measures taken with respect to those responsible for the overpayment.

8. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 6 of document A/52/790 and Corr.1 that the total overpayment has been revised upwards from $988,443.50 to $6,312,201.53, as follows: $624,191.50 to 137 staff members payrolled at Headquarters, $148,154.50 to 34 staff serving at offices away from Headquarters, $78,747.50 to 21 staff who had separated from the Organization and $5,461,108.03 to 1,356 military observers. The bulk of the overpayment relates to military observers who were no longer serving with UNIKOM at the time of initial estimate.

9. The Advisory Committee was informed that the overpayment of mission subsistence allowance for civilian staff was detected by the internal auditors during their audit of UNIKOM in August 1993, whereas the amount of overpayment to military observers was established by the UNIKOM administration in August and September 1996. The Committee was also informed that the overpayment was made as a result of the erroneous application of mission subsistence allowance rules in regard to several components of mission subsistence allowance entitlement, for example, compensatory time off, the 1.5 day accrued mission subsistence allowance credit and weekends and holidays taken during leave. The Committee was further informed the payments were regularized by UNIKOM in respect of weekends and holidays starting 1 July 1993. However, misapplication of the mission subsistence allowance calculation for compensatory time off continued until 31 March 1996 because of disagreement by the Mission's administration with regard to the clarifications provided by the Field Administration and Logistics Division of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and continuous exchange of correspondence between UNIKOM and Headquarters.

10. The Advisory Committee was further informed that the fact that military observers were also being overpaid had been established by UNIKOM administration in August and September 1996, once all the details of the mission subsistence allowance policy had been fully clarified and the review of the mission subsistence allowance payments had been undertaken. The review established that military observers had been overpaid mission subsistence allowance since the inception of the mission in April 1991 in respect of the mission subsistence allowance entitlement during compensatory time off taken outside the mission area and the actual entitlement for compensatory time off days, as well as misapplication of the rule of the 1.5 day mission subsistence allowance credit. The Mission reverted to the correct application of mission subsistence allowance rules for military observers as from 1 October 1996.

11. The Advisory Committee also notes that of the estimated overpayment of $6,312,201.53, the amount of $3,504,802.75 relates to the period beginning 1 November 1993, the date on which the decision of the Government of Kuwait to defray two thirds of the cost of UNIKOM became effective.

12. Information on recovery of payments is included in paragraphs 9 to 16 of document A/52/790 and Corr.1. The Advisory Committee was informed that a total of $796,152.18 had been recovered as at 28 February 1998 and that information on additional recovery would be included in further reports of the Secretary-General. The Committee understands that recovered funds are being held in escrow pending the outcome of legal proceedings.

13. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 12 of the report that three staff members have appealed the recovery of mission subsistence allowance to the United Nations Administrative Tribunal and that the administration is defending against the appeal.

14. With regard to the measures to be taken in connection with those responsible for the overpayment, the Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 18 of the report that a formal inquiry has been instituted in order to establish the circumstances of the overpayment and that any measures taken would be based on the conclusions of the inquiry.

15. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 19 of the report that in order to prevent a recurrence of the problem, a new administrative instruction defining the conditions governing mission subsistence allowance was issued on 20 October 1997 (ST/AI/1997/6). The new administrative instruction entered into force on 1 November 1997.

16. The Advisory Committee requests that a separate report be submitted to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session on developments related to the issue of overpayment

of mission subsistence allowance and compensatory time off; the Committee will revert to this matter at that time.

Financial performance for the period from 1 July 1996 to 30 June 1997

17. As indicated in paragraph 8 and annex I to the report of the Secretary-General containing the financial performance report of UNIKOM (A/52/790/Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1), total expenditures for the period from 1 July 1996 to 30 June 1997 amounted to $48,014,300 gross ($46,318,300 net), compared with total resources of $52,141,900 gross ($50,071,000 net) made available to UNIKOM for the same period. The resulting unencumbered balance for the period amounts to $4,127,600 gross ($3,752,700 net). The recommendation of the Advisory Committee is provided in paragraph 23 below.

18. The total includes certain expenditures, amounting to $537,385, pertaining to the prior financial period, ending 30 June 1996. The Advisory Committee regrets that the performance report does not contain any explanation of why this amount was not properly recorded in the financial period concerned. The Committee requests that future performance reports for peacekeeping operations provide complete explanations of the reasons for recording expenditures in accounts for subsequent budget periods.

19. The unencumbered balance of $4,127,600 gross ($3,752,700 net) resulted primarily from savings under military and civilian personnel costs, premises and accommodation; transport operations; air operations; supplies and services and mine-clearing programmes.

20. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 10 of the report that the savings were due primarily to lower than estimated requirements under mission subsistence allowance for military observers, lower cost for emplacement, rotation and repatriation of troops through charter arrangements and higher than projected vacancy rates for civilian staff. Savings under other headings were due to cancellation of some premises and accommodation projects and lower transport operations and supplies and services requirements due to economy measures implemented by UNIKOM.

21. The Advisory Committee notes from annex II.B to the report that lower than anticipated expenditures were also due to procurement delays related to the purchase of vehicles; spare parts, repairs and maintenance; and observation equipment and a delay in the installation of planned Kheitan headquarters satellite link.

22. With regard to vacancy rates for civilian staff, the Advisory Committee notes from annex II.A of the performance report that while the average vacancy rate was 18 per cent for local staff and 20 per cent for international staff, the estimates were based on 15 per cent average for local staff and 5 per cent for international staff.

23. In paragraph 11 of the report, it is indicated that the action to be taken by the General Assembly in connection with the financing of UNIKOM is a decision on the treatment of the unencumbered balance of $4,127,600 gross ($3,752,700 net). The Advisory Committee recommends that the unencumbered balance be credited to Member States, it being understood that two thirds of this amount would first be refunded to the Government of Kuwait.

Cost estimates for the period from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999

24. The cost of maintaining the Mission for the period from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999 is estimated at $50,611,300 gross ($48,545,600 net (A/52/824, para. 19). As indicated in the summary of the budget report (A/52/824), this amount represents an increase of 2 per cent in gross terms compared with the resources approved for the preceding 12-month period, from 1 July 1997 to 30 June 1998, of $49,525,400 gross ($47,637,200 net), excluding $1,952,100 for the support account. Two thirds of this amount is to be funded through voluntary contributions from the Government of Kuwait. The Government of Kuwait would also contribute 35 vehicles and 2 trailers for the UNIKOM Engineering Unit valued at $1,793,789, one vehicle valued at $26,756 for use by the Force Commander and medical supplies. The recommendation of the Advisory Committee on the estimates for 1998/1999 is contained in paragraph 32 below.

25. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 19 of the report that some 40 per cent of the cost estimates relates to standard ratios and 60 per cent covers mission-specific requirements.

26. The cost estimate provides for 195 military observers, 908 troops (775 infantry and 133 support personnel), 72 international civilian staff and 166 local staff (A/52/824, para.9), the same establishment as the one approved for the preceding 12-month period from 1 July 1997 to 30 June 1998, except the number of support personnel which has been increased by five. The Advisory Committee was informed that as at 28 February 1998, there were 193 military observers, 60 international civilian staff and 147 local staff on board.

27. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraphs 14 and 15 of annex II.C that international and local staff costs are based on a 5 per cent vacancy factor. In view of the high

level of vacancies in the Mission (see para. 22 above), it is the view of the Committee that this item is over-budgeted.

28. With regard to rations, the Advisory Committee notes from annex I to document A/52/824 that the overall cost estimate for this item has gone down from $2.2 million for the period from 1 July 1997 to 30 June 1998 to $1.7 million for the period from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999.

29. The Advisory Committee also notes from paragraph 9 of annex II.C to document A/52/824 that the cost of emplacement, rotation and repatriation of troops is based on a rate of $1,400 per round trip per person. In this connection, the Committee further notes from annex II.A to document A/52/790/Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1 that the use of charter flights leads to lower cost. The Committee recommends that the Secretariat continue to use charter flights whenever they are readily available.

30. With regard to vehicles, the Advisory Committee notes from line 8 of annex II.A of document A/52/824 that the vehicle establishment for the period from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999 is 422 (390 civilian-pattern and 32 military-pattern), the same as for the preceding 12-month period, from 1 July 1997 to 30 June 1998.

31. In connection with air operations, the Advisory Committee notes from annex I to document A/52/824 that the cost estimate for helicopter operations has increased from $2,270,600 for the period from 1 July 1997 to 30 June 1998 to $2,476,300 for the period from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999. The Committee also notes from annex II.C that the estimate provides for the hiring of two medium helicopters that will fly a total of 180 hours per month. The Committee notes from the performance report (A/52/790/Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1, annex II.B, para. 33) that while the estimate for helicopter operations for the period from 1 July 1996 to 30 June 1997 had provided for two medium helicopters to fly 180 hours per month for a total of 2,160 hours, they flew for a total of 2,124.08 hours. Similarly, the AN-24 fixed-wing aircraft was budgeted to fly 100 hours a month for a total of 1,080 hours; it flew for a total of 644.22 hours, considerably less than what had been budgeted for. It is the view of the Committee that there will be savings under air operations.

32. The action to be taken by the General Assembly is proposed in paragraph 27 of document A/52/824. Taking into account its comments and observations in paragraphs 26 to 31 above, the Advisory Committee recommends that the budget for UNIKOM for the period from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999 be maintained at its present level, namely $49,525,400 gross ($47,637,200 net).

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Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara

Financing of the United Nations Mission of Observers in Tajikistan

Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Angola

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

Addendum

1. In paragraph 5 of its report concerning general aspects of the financing of peacekeeping operations (A/52/860), the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions indicated that it had postponed consideration of the proposed budgets for the period from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999 for the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO), the United Nations Observer Mission in Angola (MONUA), and the United Nations Mission of Observers in Tajikistan (UNMOT) in view of the pending action by the Security Council on those Missions.

United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara

2. The Advisory Committee was informed that the next report of the Secretary-General to the Security Council on MINURSO is expected to be submitted on 20 May 1998 and that no information is available at the present time as to what proposals may be contained in that report. In view of this situation, the Committee was requested to consider at this stage recommending bridging appropriation and assessment for the maintenance of the Mission during a period of four months, from 1 July to 31 October 1998.

3. As indicated in the report of the Secretary-General on the financing of MINURSO (A/52/730/Add.3), the resource requirements for the maintenance of the Mission during the period from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999 were originally estimated at $65.0 million (gross) or a monthly rate of $5.4 million (gross).

4. Pending the submission by the Secretary-General of his updated report on resource requirements for the Mission for the next financial period, the Advisory Committee recommends at this stage that the General Assembly appropriate and assess a total of $21.6 million (gross) for the maintenance of MINURSO during the period from 1 July

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1998 to 30 June 1999, which is equivalent to $5.4 million (gross) per month for the period from 1 July to 31 October 1998. This recommendation is without prejudice to such position as the Committee may take on requirements for the period from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999 after receipt of the revised estimates referred to above.

United Nations Observer Mission in Angola

5. The Advisory Committee was informed that no information is available at the present time as to when the next report of the Secretary-General to the Security Council on MONUA will be submitted and whether that report will also contain proposals that could change the mandate and operational requirements of the Mission; should such proposals be submitted and approved by the Security Council, the earliest date that a report on revised budget requirements could be submitted would be sometime towards the end of June 1998. In view of this situation, the Committee was requested to consider at this stage recommending bridging appropriation and assessment for the maintenance of the Mission during a period of four months, from 1 July to 31 October 1998.

6. As indicated in paragraph 25 of the report of the Secretary-General on the financing of MONUA (A/52/799/Add.1), the resource requirements for the maintenance of the Mission during the period from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999 were originally estimated at $140.8 million (gross) or a monthly rate of $11.7 million (gross). However, by its resolution 1157 (1998) of 20 March 1998, the Security Council endorsed the recommendation of the Secretary-General to resume the gradual downsizing of the military component of MONUA and to increase gradually and as needed the number of civilian police observers by up to 83 personnel. The Advisory Committee was informed by representatives of the Secretary-General that the reduction of 595 military personnel and the increase of 83 civilian police would result in a decrease in monthly resource requirements for the Mission from $11.7 million (gross) to $10.9 million (gross).

7. Pending the submission by the Secretary-General of his updated report on resource requirements for the Mission for the next financial period, the Advisory Committee recommends at this stage that the General Assembly appropriate and assess a total of $43.6 million (gross) for the maintenance of MONUA during the period from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999, which is equivalent to $10.9 million (gross) per month for the period from 1 July to 31 October 1998. This recommendation is without prejudice to such position as the Committee may take on requirements for the period from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999 after receipt of the revised estimates referred to above.

United Nations Mission of Observers in Tajikistan

8. The report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Tajikistan (S/1998/374) was issued on 6 May 1998; in paragraphs 28 and 33 thereof the Secretary-General recommended that the Security Council extend the mandate of UNMOT for a further period of six months, until 15 November 1998, and indicated that should the Council decide to extend the mandate of the Mission beyond 15 May 1998, the cost of its maintenance would be limited to the original estimates of $22.3 million (gross) for the period from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999 reflected in his report on the financing of UNMOT (A/52/772/Add.2). The Security Council had not taken a decision with regard to the mandate of the Mission by the time the Advisory Committee considered the question of the financing of UNMOT during the next financial period.

9. The Advisory Committee points out that the report of the Secretary-General shows that there are still a number of unresolved issues that can impact on the development of the Mission and on its resource requirements, for example, the security situation (para.17), as well as the fact that UNMOT remained "well under its authorized strength" (para.23). The Committee requests that the Secretary-General clarify these issues in his revised budget estimates for UNMOT for the period from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999.

10. Pending the clarification by the Secretary-General of the issues above, the Advisory Committee recommends at this stage that the General Assembly appropriate and assess a total of $7.6 million (gross) for the maintenance of UNMOT during the period from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999, which is equivalent to $1.9 million (gross) per month for the period from 1 July to 31 October 1998. This recommendation is without prejudice to such position as the Committee may take on requirements for the period from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999 after receipt of the clarifications referred to above.